

Africa

David Diop

Stanza I

- 1 Africa my Africa
- 2 Africa of proud warriors in ancestral savannahs
- 3 Africa of whom my grandmother sings
- 4 On the banks of the distant river
- 5 I have never known you
- 6 But your blood flows in my veins
- 7 Your beautiful black blood that irrigates the fields
- 8 The blood of your sweat
- 9 The sweat of your work
- 10 The work of your slavery

Stanza II

- 11 Africa, tell me Africa
- 12 Is this your back that is unbent
- 13 This back that never breaks under the weight of humiliation
- 14 This back trembling with red scars
- 15 And saying no to the whip under the midday sun

Stanza III

- 16 But a grave voice answers me
- 17 Impetuous child that tree, young and strong
- 18 That tree over there
- 19 Splendidly alone amidst white and faded flowers
- 20 That is your Africa springing up anew
- 21 springing up patiently, obstinately
- 22 Whose fruit bit by bit acquires
- 23 The bitter taste of liberty.